

Interrupt no one's story

Make no comparisons.

Ask no abrupt questions.

Reflect on no order of people.

Interrupt no one speaking

Display not your learning on all occasions."¹

"Of wise men and learned frequent their company,

When thou art disposed thy mind to recreate,

After very watching and labour of study,

Of such company if thou be cleane private,

Mus then on some pleasour not hurting thine estate,

Meditation augmenteth the wittes semblably,

And quickeneth, as walking doth comfort the body."²

"A bolde minde in labour most diligent must be

In thinges of moste perill and most difficultie,

Where thinges be most hard there must thou to prevale

Chiefly put thy body to labour and travayle."³

A perusal of some of these details from Chesterfield's view point will reveal a striking similarity. Letter CLVII, "Have a will and an opinion of your own, and adhere to them steadily; but then do it with good humour, good breeding, and with urbanity; for you have not yet heard enough either to preach or censure."⁴ Letter CXLVIII, "At least see every thing that you can see, and know every thing that you can know of it, by asking questions.

1. Galateo, p 269 ff.

2. Mirror of Good Manners, p 56.

3. op. cit., p 41.

4. Chesterfield's Letters to His Son, p 200, Letter CLVII.